

In re Patent Application of
DELLMO ET AL.
Serial No. **10/806,937**
Filed: **MARCH 23, 2004**

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. The Examiner is also thanked for withdrawing his prior rejections with regard to the prior art. The Examiner is further thanked for the telephonic interview of December 15, 2009, during which the current claim rejections were discussed, and the Examiner agreed that the claim amendments made herein would define over the cited prior art references.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a cryptographic device including a cryptographic module and a communications module removably coupled thereto. The cryptographic module includes a user network interface and a cryptographic processor coupled thereto. The communications module includes a network communications interface coupled to the cryptographic processor. The cryptographic processor communicates with the user network interface using a Media Independent Interface (MII) and a serial interface, and the cryptographic processor communicates with the network communications interface using the MII and the serial interface. The cryptographic module and the communications module communicate using the MII to transfer encrypted data

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therebetween and using the serial interface to transfer communications module configuration operations therebetween.

Amended independent Claim 37 is directed to the cryptographic module of independent Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 21 is a method counterpart of amended independent Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 28 is a system counterpart of independent Claim 1. Independent Claims 21, 37, and 28 have been amended similar to amended independent Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a corresponding cryptographic device where the cryptographic module includes a Local Area Network (LAN) interface, the communications module includes a network LAN interface, the cryptographic module and communications module both operate using at least one unique external media access control (MAC) address, and at least one fixed internal MAC address. Amended independent Claim 12 does not recite the cryptographic and communications modules being removably coupled. Independent Claim 12 has also been amended similar to amended independent Claim 1.

II. The Amended Claims are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 21, 28, and 37 over a combination of Dellmo et al., Boucher et al., and Cheng. The Examiner also rejected independent Claim 12 in further view of Nguyen. Independent Claims 1, 12, 21, 28, and 37 have been amended as proposed during the telephonic interview

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to recite the cryptographic processor communicates with the network interface using a Media Independent Interface (MII) and a serial interface, and the cryptographic processor communicates with the network communications interface using the MII and serial interface. The independent claims have also been amended to recite the cryptographic module and the communications module communicate using the MII to transfer encrypted data therebetween and use the serial interface to transfer communications module configuration operations therebetween.

Applicants submit, and the Examiner agreed, that with the above amendments, the independent claims define over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 12, 21, 28 and 37 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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III. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. If the Examiner determines any remaining informalities exist, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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